

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Applicant has amended Figures 1 and 2 to comply with the Examiner's request that Figures 1 and 2 are prior art. Applicant is submitting herewith a Letter Submitting Proposed Drawing Changes Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 to reflect the changes.

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. Claims 1-10 stand rejected as anticipated by Hahn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,973,948). The Applicant has amended the Specification and Claim 1 to address minor typographical errors. Claims 11-16 have been added by this amendment. Reexamination and reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein are respectfully requested.

Applicant requests an Examiner initialed copy of the Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant mailed on August 15, 2000.

Claim 1 is currently rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hahn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,973,948). Independent claim 1 specifies a device for transforming the main supply voltage into a lower voltage comprising a first connector that can be plugged into a main supply socket, a second connector that can be plugged into a consumer and an electronic circuit for transforming the voltage which is located between the two connectors. The main advantage of the claimed invention is that the electronic circuit and the second connector form one rigid physical unit. As a result, the connection between the electronic circuit and second connector is as short as possible and has a low electric resistance. Thus, energy losses and line overloads on the low voltage side of the converter are effectively avoided.

Hahn et al. do not teach or suggest a device where the electronic circuit and the second connector form one rigid physical unit. Rather, Hahn et al. teach a power conversion apparatus that transforms a main supply voltage into a lower voltage where the DC voltage is supplied to a device 8 via electrical cable 19. *See Figure 1a; col. 3, lines 64-5.* Thus, Hahn et al. do not teach the claimed subject matter of independent claim 1. Accordingly, independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-10 are allowable.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1, and is therefore allowable for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1. Dependent claim 2 further specifies an ON/OFF switch for switching the line voltage. Hahn et al. do not teach or suggest a device for transforming the main supply voltage into a lower voltage further comprising an ON/OFF switch for switching the line voltage. Rather, Hahn et al. teach a power conversion apparatus that transforms a

main supply voltage into a lower voltage that utilizes electrical plugs with different connector arrangements. Depending on whether the supply voltage is 110 VAC or 220 VAC, an accommodating plug is chosen for the application. One of the plugs has a projection 17 that engages with connector 42 when the supply voltage is 110 VAC. The purpose of the projection and connector 42 is to prevent overload and damage to internal components.

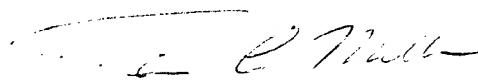
The projection and connector 42 do not operate as an ON/OFF switch as claimed by Applicant. The ON/OFF switch, conveniently located at the electronic circuit, operates to activate and deactivate the line voltage, and ultimately a device connected to the claimed invention. Therefore, dependent claim 2 contains additional patentable subject matter.

New claims 11-16 generally recite, among other things, a device for converting a main supply voltage to a lower voltage including a housing, a first connector coupled to the housing for connection to a main supply voltage, and a second connector releaseably coupled directly to the housing for connection to an electronic device, such that the second connector and the housing form a rigid unit when coupled together. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, the prior art does not teach or suggest a second connector releaseably coupled directly to the housing for connection to an electronic device, such that the second connector and the housing form a rigid unit when coupled together. Accordingly, claims 11-16 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, entry of the amendments and allowance of claims 1-16 are respectfully requested. Applicant is providing a marked-up version of the Specification and Claim 1 at the end of this amendment. In addition, Applicant is submitting herewith a Letter Submitting Proposed Drawing Changes Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 for amendment of Figures 1 and 2. The undersigned is available for a telephone consultation at any time.

Respectfully submitted,



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On page 2, delete the seventh full paragraph and replace it with:

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In all three figures, numeral 1 signifies a [mains] main supply plug ("first connector"), numeral 2 signifies a second connector[,] that can be plugged into a consumer, numeral 3 signifies a case where a voltage transforming electric circuit is built in, numeral 4 signifies an indicator for the operation state, and numeral 5 signifies an ON/OFF switch.

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**AMENDED CLAIM
MARKED-UP VERSION**

1. (Twice Amended) Device for transforming the main supply voltage into a lower voltage, comprising a first connector that can be plugged into a [mains] main supply socket, a second connector that can be plugged into a consumer and an electronic circuit for transforming the voltage which is located between the two connectors, and wherein

the electronic circuit forms with the second connector (2) one rigid physical unit whereby the connection between the electronic circuit and second connector (2) is as short as possible and has a low electric resistance.